

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – November 10, 2009 – 7 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty

Absent:

Councilperson John Gaworski

Also present:

Treasurer Janet Carlin, Administrator Cathryn Thomas; Finance Director Marian Delaney, City Solicitor Roger Akin, City Planner Marian Hull, Police Chief Kevin McDerby

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to approve the minutes of October 6, 13, 15 and 20 as written. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Megginson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer Carlin reported that, as of October 31, 2009, total petty cash on hand was \$400; total monthly deposits were \$151,046.34; total cash in the Wilmington Trust accounts, \$450,014.10; total certificates of deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool, \$2,675,859.23; and total cash on hand, \$3,125,873.33.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to accept the report as presented. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Staff Reports

Council President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented.

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas had one addition to her written report. She attended the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society event in Philadelphia where she accepted on behalf of the City a Community Greening Award for the City's Western Gateway project. She showed a sign she received that the City can put up along the Western Gateway and a plaque. She credited the team effort of the City, the Beautification Committee, the past City Council and volunteers. Ms. Kerstin Almquist attended a portion of the event in Philadelphia, as well, as she had been instrumental in the project.

Council President Barthel said the report was accepted as presented.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran said grant expenses were a drug grant, \$384.19; VIPS uniforms, \$846.50; stimulus grant for Motorola was \$3,880.03; stimulus grant for financial services, \$3,359.34; stimulus grant for financial services, was \$1,706.54; and a drug grant for \$501.86.

Business from the Floor

Mr. Mike Alfree said he is sure he is in the minority, but spoke about his concerns about the National Park Service arriving in New Castle. He said he has grave concerns about the infrastructure of the City and its ability to handle the undertaking. He does not think the City can do so without major infrastructure enhancement. He said looking at the group on Council only one person lives downtown. The rest are not going to be affected by buses and tourists and everything else. He said if this is not done expertly, the City will be overrun.

Mr. Alfree pointed to Sante Fe, N.M. as an example of what needs to be done. It has quality parking, places for buses to drop people off and quality bathroom facilities.

Don Reese, of West Seventh Street, responded that the National Parks Service is going to come into study the City first. It could take three months to a few years for the NPS to develop a plan for the new National Park headquarters in downtown New Castle.

He points to Harper's Ferry National Park as the best example of what it can be like in New Castle. The National Park runs that. The agency has vast experience in these matters.

Ms. Cindy Snyder, manager of State properties in New Castle, said she understands Mr. Alfree's concern and it is a concern of the State as well. One of the things the Parks Service will be concerned about is the impact on the City and its residents. New Castle is going to be a small section of the National Park. Some of the benefits are having the resources of the Park Service to help out the City.

Business from the Council President

Council President Barthel commented on the Special Election, which passed 333-53. When the City passed the ordinance to go forward, it authorized City officials and staff members to move forward with all steps necessary on the project if the referendum was approved.

Unfinished Business

First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 467, approving that certain parcels be approved for rezoning to R-1 (Low Density Residential), as follows:

- the Deemer property at 901 Delaware Street, Tax Parcel No. 21-010.00-016, requested to be rezoned from OS&R (Open Space and Recreation) to R-1 (Low Density Residential);
- the DiMondi property located adjacent to the Deemer property near Delaware Street but without an address, Tax Parcel No. 21-010.00-017, with a portion of such property requested to be rezoned from OS&R (Open Space and Recreation) to R-1 (Low Density Residential).

The first and second reading of Ordinance No. 467 was performed.

New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-28, authorizing the Mayor to sign, and for the City to enter into, a contract with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA), for the provision of Recycling Services, with a term beginning January 1, 2010.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

The City selected the bi-weekly option, which is the service currently provided to City residents. The price is \$1.58 per collection in 2010; \$1.61 per collection in 2011; and \$1.64 in 2012.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-29, authorizing the Mayor to sign, and for the City to enter into, a contract with the URS Corporation, for the provision of Engineering and Planning Services.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-30, in support of U.S. Congressional Legislation S.1801 and H.R.3893, which would establish the First State National Historical Park in the State of Delaware, possibly provide funding for the Park with a total of \$5.5 million available in Federal grants, and also includes that, "The headquarters for the Park shall be in the City of New Castle, Delaware."

Councilperson Megginson made motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Council President Barthel said it was fair to say that everyone agrees due diligence needs to be done regarding the park. He thinks it will benefit the City.

Administrator Thomas said she would provide a copy of the resolution to the Congressional delegation for Delaware and other appropriate members of Congress in committees reviewing it.

4. Comments from the floor.

Paulette Maddox spoke about a house in Buttonwood. She explained she is having a problem with the house. She explained two years Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd had investigated the house and called police. Her daughter was living there at the time and was put out of the house, which was later boarded up. She has been trying to get the bills paid on it and feels she is getting a runaround.

Council President Barthel said the City will investigate the situation to get a full understanding and get back to her.

Mr. Alfree asked about the status of leaf pickup. He suggested people be encouraged to rake the leaves into piles to make it easier to scoop them up.

5. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to adjourn the meeting into an executive session. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk